IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit 2881

Examiner K. Nguyen Anatoli N. Verentchikov Applicant

Appln. No. 10/520,871

Filing Date : January 11, 2005 Confirmation No. : 6508

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

REPLY AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action mailed June 8, 2006, please amend this application as set forth below.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.